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MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS REVIEW

A MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER SERVING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS UNITS OF IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI AND NEBRASKA

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Upcoming Events and Training

International City/County Management Association (ICMA) 92nd Annual Conference. September 10-13, 2006 in San Antonio, TX. The conference features a track on emergency management. For more information, visit the ICMA website at www.icma.org/.

Fire-Rescue International 2006. September 14-16, 2006 in Dallas, TX. Sponsored by the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC). For more information, visit www.iafc.org.

"Pandemic Flu Preparedness: What Every Community Should Know." September 29, 2006, 1:00-2:00 p.m. CDT. Broadcast and Webcast sponsored by the North Carolina Institute for Public Health. For more information, visit <http://www.publichealthgrandrounds.unc.edu/pandemic/index.htm>.

2006 National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) Annual Meeting and EMS Expo. September 25-29, 2006 in Las Vegas, NV. Visit www.naemt.org for more information.

2006 Disaster Mental Health Conference. November 8-11, 2006 in Casper, WY. Sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Region Disaster Mental Health Institute. For more information, visit www.rmrinstitute.org/call2006.pdf.

IAEM Annual Conference and EMEX Exposition. November 12-15, 2006 in Orlando, FL. Sponsored by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). For more information, visit www.iaem.com.

Fourth Annual Homeland Defense Symposium "Putting It All Together: Policy, Products, People." October 2-5, 2006 in Colorado Springs, CO. Sponsored by the National Homeland Defense Foundation. For more information, visit <http://nhdf.org/HDSymposium/HomelandDefenseSymposium.php>.

Nebraska/Western Iowa MRC Assists with College World Series

*Adapted from a United Way of the Midlands press release of June 9, 2006

They're health professionals who are willing to serve our community in the event of a disaster or public health emergency. But local members of the [Nebraska/Western Iowa] MRC practiced their skills in a much more enjoyable setting during two weeks in June. The MRC worked side-by-side with the Omaha Fire

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Department and other local agencies to provide first aid to fans at the 2006 College World Series. The tournament [was held on] June 16-26, 2006 at Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium.

The first aid work at the series not only gave MRC members an opportunity to hone their public response skills, it provided valuable on-the-job training with local fire and law enforcement officers with whom they will work during future emergencies.

"If disaster strikes, it will be important for MRC volunteers, local fire and law enforcement officers, and emergency planners to work as a team," said Jamie Moore, vice president of United Way's Volunteer and Community Services, which coordinates the local MRC chapter. "The College World Series duty gives our first responders a chance to get acquainted and practice local emergency procedures before they're pressed into duty during an actual disaster."

The [Nebraska/Western Iowa] MRC is now 560 members strong; they are current or retired health professionals who are willing to serve together when in the event of a disaster or public health emergency. In the event of a large scale disaster, the community is usually "on its own" for the first 24 to 72 hours, so the services of the MRC will be critical until federal assistance and outside relief agencies arrive. The MRC will also serve as ongoing support for public health education and activities.

Many of the local MRC members helped with the medical checkups for Hurricane Katrina evacuees at the [Omaha] Civic Auditorium shelter last September, and still others traveled with FEMA to the hurricane zone to assist with medical care for victims.

The MRC is part of the larger Omaha Metropolitan Citizens Corps; its license is granted through the U.S. Surgeon General's office. The local MRC is a partnership between United Way of the Midlands, the Omaha Metropolitan Medical Response System (OMMRS), the Metro Omaha Medical Society, the American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, and local health and fire departments in Douglas, Sarpy, Cass, Saunders, Washington and Dodge Counties in Nebraska and Pottawattamie and Harrison Counties in Iowa.

The MRC continues to recruit more volunteers, including: doctors, nurses, clergy, dentists, EMTs, paramedics, pharmacists, morticians, psychologists, social workers and lab technicians. Interested individuals can contact [Vickie Stevens] at (402) 522-

7970, send an e-mail to vstevens@uwmidlands.org, or visit www.uwmidlands.org/mrc.



Members of the Omaha Fire Department and Nebraska/Western Iowa MRC at the College World Series



A Nebraska/Western Iowa MRC member provides first aid to an injured spectator at the College World Series

Revisions to MRC Technical Assistance Series

Over the past few months, MRC program staff members teamed up with MRC leaders and subject matter experts to review and update the Technical Assistance Series. As part of an effort to support the growth and sustainability of MRC units across the United States, the Technical Assistance Series addresses topics that are considered important to developing and managing MRC units. The Technical Assistance Series is available at www.medicalreservecorps.gov/TASeries.

Some of the updated topics addressed in the original Technical Assistance Series include:

- Getting Started: A Guide for Local Leaders
- Organizing an MRC Unit: Operational Components and the Coordinator's Role
- Coordinating With Your Local Response Partners
- Developing Volunteer Relationships and Capabilities
- Establishing and Maintaining Your MRC Unit's Organization

The updated Technical Assistance Series now includes a Special Topics section. This newly added section focuses on some of the more complex aspects of operating an MRC unit that have emerged in recent years. It includes documents that address the following emerging topics:

- Risk Management and Liability Basics for MRC Units
- MRC Training and Core Competencies
- Sustainability
- Volunteer Retention and Recognition
- Guidelines for Developing and Managing an MRC Unit

We hope that you find this updated resource helpful. If you have any questions about the Technical Assistance Series, feel free to contact the MRC Program Office at MRCcontact@hhs.gov or (301) 443-4951.

NIMS Resource Inventory Management System

The following information was provided by the NIMS Integration Center on August 14, 2006:

The NIMS Integration Center (NIC) is supporting the development of a database management tool for federal, state, local and tribal officials, which will be available to them at no cost. The software will allow emergency responders to enter typed resources and select specific resources for mutual aid purposes based upon mission requirements, capability of resources, and response time. The NIMS Resource Inventory Management System (NIMS-RIMS) tool will be rolled out to the emergency response community in phases. Phase One will provide the basic database management tool to enter a community's 120 typed resources¹ into a common database, which can be shared nationally and housed locally. Future system functionality will assist in placing and mobilizing resource requests, GPS tracking of resources, and resource recovery.

NIMS-RIMS will:

- Systematically assist communities in inventorying and typing resources in accordance with NIMS protocols and provide quick access to resources to support emergency response operations.
- Ensure that a "no-cost" standard national typed resource database is available to support local, regional, and multiple State response operations.
- Improve the Nation's capability to identify, mobilize, and dispatch a typed resource.

Key Features of NIMS-RIMS:

- A simple resource management solution for all agencies, jurisdictions and users.
- Easy-to-use and intuitive user interface.
- Forms-based construct – mirrored after the Incident Command System (ICS).
- Scalable screen (for use on computer or PDA) for browse, select, and input.
- The system tracks:
 - Equipment
 - Communications
 - Contracts
 - Facilities
 - Responders
 - Services
 - Supplies
 - Teams
- Requires no licensure fees.
- Uses the interoperable Emergency Data Exchange Language (EDXL) data messaging construct.

- Compatible, not competitive, with existing agency systems and existing and future commercial applications:
 - Is easily converted to proprietary systems, if necessary.
 - Compatible with Oracle, MS SQL, and MS Access.
 - Uses annotated and modularized code.

Benefits of this initiative:

- Allows emergency responders to inventory, categorize, type, locate, request, and track all internal and external resources from a single integrated system, which will help facilitate the response of requested resources during an incident.
- Provides a local database that is scalable to the State and Federal level for the identification of all typed resources.
- Can be upgraded as additional typed resources are added, keeping pace with the rapid evolution of the NIMS and the National Response Plan.

The NIMS-RIMS prototype will be available in Fall 2006.

The point of contact for this effort is Dr. Pam Collins, NIMS SC Principal Investigator, Justice and Safety Center, Eastern Kentucky University, NIMSSC@eku.edu, (859) 622-8853.

September is National Preparedness Month

Once again this year, September is [National Preparedness Month](#). The MRC is a national-level partner with the Department of Homeland Security's month-long initiative to educate the public about the importance of emergency preparedness. We strongly encourage MRC units to take this time to provide information, host events, and sponsor activities that disseminate emergency preparedness messages and promote action in your communities.

Please send information about the preparedness activities your unit is leading, participating in, or sponsoring during the month of September to your [MRC Regional Coordinator](#). This information will be added to the official National Preparedness Month Calendar and a report on the involvement of the MRC in this readiness campaign. While this is a national initiative, we recognize that it takes local communities to reach individuals about the importance of preparedness. As public health preparedness is a priority of the Office of the U.S.

Surgeon General and the MRC, we thank you in advance for your participation in this important initiative.

To learn more about National Preparedness Month, review the National Preparedness Month Calendar, or seek answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the campaign, please visit www.ready.gov. We look forward to hearing about your MRC unit's involvement.

MRC Psychological First Aid Field Operations Guide Developed

The MRC Mental Health Work Group recently completed the [Medical Reserve Corps Adaptation of the Psychological First Aid \(PFA\) Field Operations Guide](#). The Psychological First Aid Field Operations Guide was developed by the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (NCPTSD) and the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN). The MRC Mental Health Work Group worked in collaboration with experts from these organizations to create a special MRC adaptation of this publication.

This publication will serve as a resource to the entire MRC network. The MRC PFA Field Operations Guide will continuously be updated and expanded. It is intended to serve as a reference for all MRC volunteers in assisting individuals in the immediate aftermath of disaster. The MRC PFA is designed to be a Field Operations Guide and not a complete text for training purposes. The MRC Mental Health Working Group recommends that all MRC volunteers familiarize themselves with the content of this document, particularly if your unit is going to be supporting response activities at the local, state or federal levels. Included in the Appendix of the PFA is a Debriefing Position Statement.

The NCTSN/NCPTSD recently released the 2nd edition of the PFA. The MRC Mental Health Work Group will continue to update materials in the MRC PFA 1st edition, based upon adaptations from the latest PFA and new references. The work group is also working toward recommending materials specific to mental health operations in public health and medical settings.

If you have any feedback regarding usefulness or areas of need for the publication, please feel free to contact the MRC Mental Health Work Group at: <http://www.medicalreservecorps.gov/About/WorkGroups/MentalHealth>. You may also contact the work group co-chairs, Pat Santucci (santucci@pol.net) and John Hickey (drjohnkiskey@optonline.net).